United Nations A/63/134

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 July 2008
English
Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Sixty-third session
Item 91 (aa) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/48. It summarizes the activities undertaken by the United Nations in implementing the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development as well as activities related to the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development (see A/59/119). The report also contains information received from Governments on the subject.

* A/63/50.

08-42580 (E) 070808

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/48, in which the Assembly recalled the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development (see A/59/119), and requested the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. The General Assembly invited Member States to provide information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries. This information is contained in section IV below.

3. In paragraph 1 of resolution 62/48 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the disarmament and development relationship, in particular the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development, in order to ensure continued and effective coordination and close cooperation between the relevant United Nations departments, agencies and sub-agencies. The Steering Group has designated focal points at the working level, as previously reported (see A/60/94), and has been discussing the issue. Significant divergent views between States have resulted in a limited response from Member States. In 2008, only five Member States have provided information on the measures related to the relationship between disarmament and development. Without the expression of support and interest by Member States, the Steering Group will continue to be limited in its ability to take further decisive action and to commit the necessary resources to this issue.

II. Action taken by the United Nations to implement the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development

A. Monitoring/comparison of military expenditures

4. The United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures was introduced by General Assembly resolution 35/142 B as an important instrument to enhance transparency. The instrument aggregates and publishes data on expenditures on personnel, operations and procurement. It collects information on military expenditures submitted voluntarily by Member States and publishes this annually, through a consolidated report to the General Assembly. All information on military expenditures submitted since its inception in 1981 is publicly accessible. Currently, the Secretariat is not mandated to monitor and analyse the trends in military expenditures nor their impact on the world economy and international security. A review of the operation and further development of the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures will be undertaken by

a group of governmental experts, which is to be established by the Secretary-General and which is scheduled to commence its work in 2010.[1]

B. Public information

5. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) has devoted several issues of its quarterly journal *Disarmament Forum* to linkages between disarmament and development and to the exploration of related themes.[2] The relevant issues are available, in both English and French, at www.unidir.org. Recent publications of the Institute have examined the negative impact of cluster munitions and small arms on development.[3]

C. International humanitarian law

6. There is ever-increasing concern over the humanitarian effects of cluster munitions. The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects is addressing the issue through its Group of Governmental Experts, which is currently negotiating a proposal to address the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations. The Group held meetings in January and April 2008 and is expected to hold three more meetings before it reports on progress made to the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in 2008.

7. A State-led initiative originating from the Oslo Conference on Cluster Munitions, held in February 2007, culminated in the adoption of a draft convention on cluster munitions at the Dublin Diplomatic Conference in May 2008. This new convention would address the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions and enhance the protection of civilians, strengthen human rights and improve prospects for development.

8. The tenth anniversary of the signing of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction was held in 2007. Originally signed by 122 States, the treaty now has 156 States parties.

9. In 2004 UNIDIR launched a project entitled "Disarmament as humanitarian action: making multilateral negotiations work", with the support of the Governments of the Netherlands and Norway. The objective of the project, which is ongoing, is to analyse and compare different negotiating processes, reframe multilateral disarmament negotiation processes in humanitarian terms and formulate practical proposals to apply humanitarian concepts to assist disarmament negotiators. To date, the project has produced three publications, drawn from a range of contributors in

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[1] See resolution 62/13.

[2] "The Peacebuilding Commission", *Disarmament Forum*, No. 2, 2007; "Cluster Munitions", *Disarmament Forum*, No. 4, 2007.

[3] See, for example, UNIDIR, *International Assistance for Implementing the United Nations Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: Case Study of East Africa* (Geneva, 2007); and UNIDIR, *The Humanitarian Impact of Cluster Munitions* (Geneva, 2008).

civil society, diplomacy and the policy and research fields.[4] The publications examine current difficulties for the international community in tackling disarmament and arms control challenges. An important emphasis of the project is to communicate its research findings to multilateral practitioners.

D. Arms transparency

10. In addition to the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/36 L. In that resolution the Assembly called upon all Member States to provide data annually for inclusion in the Register on imports and exports and invited Member States, pending the expansion of the Register, to provide to the Secretary-General with their annual report on imports and exports of arms, available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies. The introduction of simplified reporting mechanisms has facilitated the participation of Member States in the Register, with 75 Member States providing information under the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures and 115 States submitting data to the Register. It is also noteworthy that some States enclosed their defence white papers and defence policy papers as part of their additional background information to the Register.

11. In addition, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/66 on national legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has set up an online database[5] containing information provided by Member States on their national legislation, regulations and procedures on the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology, as well as the changes therein, and has made it accessible to all Member States. To date, a total of 31 States have submitted information, which is included in the database.

12. Furthermore, pursuant to resolution 59/92 on information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms, the Office for Disarmament Affairs set up an online database[6] containing information provided by Member States on confidence-building measures already taken in the field of conventional arms. Over 30 reports are included in the database.

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[4] *Alternative Approaches in Multilateral Decision Making: Disarmament as Humanitarian Action* (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.05.08); *Disarmament as Humanitarian Action: From Perspective to Practice* (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.06.09); *Thinking Outside the Box in Multilateral Disarmament and Arms Control Negotiations* (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.06.0.16).

[5] http://disarmament2.un.org/cab/NLDU%202007/NLDUindex.html.

[6] http://disarmament2.un.org/cab/cbm.html.

III. Activities undertaken by the United Nations related to the recommendations of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development

A. Assessing security needs of States promoting transparency and confidence

13. UNIDIR is currently developing a security needs assessment protocol, intended to complement the work of the joint assessment missions conducted by the United Nations and the World Bank, which could be of use to the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. It is designed for the timely provision of culturally specific security-building knowledge. The system will assist field managers in the design and planning of security-related development and humanitarian activities. A related publication, entitled *The Security Needs Assessment Protocol: Improving Operational Effectiveness through Community Security*, is available at the UNIDIR website[7] and a conference on the subject was held in Geneva in June 2008.[8]

B. Mainstreaming and promoting a disarmament and development perspective

14. Collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resulted in integrating small arms and armed violence issues into national development planning processes/frameworks. Of the 81 current United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, nearly one half contain references to armed violence as a hindrance to development and one third include programmatic responses to addressing armed violence. These issues are also reflected, although to a slightly lesser degree, in the poverty reduction strategy papers. Many United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and poverty reduction strategy papers also include references to mine action programmes, emphasizing the significance of incorporating mine clearance activities into national development plans. The integration of armed violence reduction programmes into development frameworks and strategies is one of the many commitments undertaken by the signatories to the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, adopted in June 2006, which aims at achieving a measurable reduction in the global burden of armed violence by 2015.

C. Facilitating research and dialogue

15. As one of the specialized research bodies of the organization, UNIDIR conducts research on disarmament and security with the aim of assisting the international community in their disarmament thinking, decisions and efforts, in particular by connecting cross-cutting issues that support the Organization's objectives of building peace and security, such as disarmament, human rights,

[7] www.unidir.ch/pdf/ouvrages/pdf-1-92-9045-008-E-en.pdf.

[8] Community Security and Operational Effectiveness, 16 June 2008, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

institutional assistance and development. Some of the activities of the Institute in this regard are outlined above (see paras. 5, 9 and 13).

D. Destruction of surplus weapons

16. The United Nations facilitates and promotes various surplus weapons/ammunition destruction programmes. UNDP supports the development of national plans and capacities to destroy and dispose of weapons from surplus stockpiles, including the development of technical plans and capacities, the identification and acquisition of required equipment and infrastructure, identification of appropriate destruction methods and development of training material. For example, UNDP and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe undertook the destruction of almost 10,000 tons of ammunition in Montenegro in February 2007 and UNDP supported large-scale ammunition destruction in Uganda in July and November 2007. In addition, various training courses, seminars and workshops have been facilitated by the Lima-based United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean that focus on, or have included, the destruction of surplus weapons/ammunition, including most recently a seminar/training course on the subject held in Costa Rica in September 2007.

E. Conflict prevention

17. The Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration continues to promote the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards. The Working Group set up three sub-working groups on training, socio-economic reintegration and HIV/AIDS, as well as one on exploring ways to incorporate the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards in these areas. The Working Group is also publishing the French version of the Standards to meet the needs of Francophone countries and is working with a range of partners to develop new guidance on linkages between disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts and security sector reform, transitional justice and the peace processes.

18. Pursuant to the presidential statement issued by the Security Council on 29 June 2007 (S/PRST/2007/24), the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, on a biennial basis beginning in 2008, a report containing analysis, observations and recommendations on the issue of small arms as well as observations on the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. A report of the Secretary-General on small arms (S/2008/258), issued in April 2008, included a set of recommendations. The report puts particular emphasis on the impact of the issue of small arms on development. It contextualizes illicit small arms trade within the broader concepts of conflict, armed violence and firearms control. It supports the initiative by a large group of States through the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development which is aimed, inter alia, at developing quantitative indicators for measuring the impact of small arms. The report calls for increasing synergies between various actors, including the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Peacebuilding Commission and peacekeeping

missions on the ground. All States and concerned parties are encouraged to follow up on the recommendations contained in the report.

19. Since its inception in 1997, the Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament Measures has sought to fill a gap in the existing disarmament agenda, in particular in the field of small arms control projects. After the adoption in 2001 of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the Group focused its efforts on matching needs with resources. Notwithstanding these efforts, States have continued to indicate that more comprehensive implementation support in the field of small arms control programming is needed. The United Nations is therefore developing a web-based management tool which would build on the work done through the Group and the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism. The Programme of Action-Implementation Support System, launched in July 2008, aims to establish a comprehensive information management system in the area of small arms. This system encompasses a database of requests for assistance and a tool for matching needs and resources, and also functions as a clearing-house for project proposals. In addition, the Small Arms Advisory Network, an online community-operated system, facilitates a worldwide exchange of advice and experiences.

IV. Information received from Governments

20. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 62/48, the General Assembly invited Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale dated 15 February 2008 was sent to Member States requesting this information. To date, replies have been received from the following States: Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Qatar and Serbia. These replies are summarized below. Any further replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[11 June 2008]

Disarmament and development are two of the most urgent challenges facing the world today. Global military expenditure is in dramatic contrast to economic and social underdevelopment and to the misery and poverty afflicting more than two thirds of mankind.

The growing and alarming arms race, which already accounts for over one trillion dollars in spending, is absorbing far too great a proportion of the world's human, financial, natural and technological resources, placing a heavy burden on the economies of all countries and affecting the international flow of trade, finance and technology.

The conclusion of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/65 adopted in 2002 to study the topic in the current

international climate that, after a slight reduction during the 1990s, global military expenditure has been rising steadily since 2001, is worth highlighting.

As a result of such expenditure, there has been a rise in defence budgets worldwide, fostering a climate of insecurity, fear and mistrust.

In September 2006, Cuba was elected Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, which has staunchly advocated the need to end the insane arms race and for developed countries to contribute to the sustainable development of developing countries by releasing a portion of the resources devoted to the arms race.

Cuba reiterates its proposal for the establishment of a fund administered by the United Nations into which at least half of current military expenditure would be paid in order to meet the economic and social development requirements of needy countries. In addition to its obvious usefulness, this initiative could be very valuable as a confidence-building measure and would be a determining factor in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Cuba also reiterates its support for the Plan of Action adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development held in September 1987, which includes the commitment to allocate a portion of the resources released through disarmament for purposes of socio-economic development. Cuba also reiterates its support for the discussion of this topic by the United Nations General Assembly and for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the relevant resolutions.

Dominican Republic

[Original: Spanish]
[5 May 2008]

1. By Decree No. 389-00 of 24 July 2000, the President of the Republic prohibited the import of firearms, spare parts and ammunition for the purpose of trade with individuals.

2. Pursuant to that measure, the budgets of the Armed Forces of the Dominican Republic for 2007 and 2008 did not allocate funds for the acquisition of weapons of war or heavy weapons, which are defined in article 2, paragraph 2, of Act No. 36 on the trade in and the carriage and ownership of firearms.

3. The Armed Forces, through their various units and institutions, regulate and are responsible for the inspection and storage of firearms, ammunition and explosives imported into the Dominican Republic, pursuant to Act No. 36 of 19 October 1965 on the trade in and the carriage and ownership of firearms (Official Gazette No. 8950). Article 2 of Act No. 36 stipulates that, except where permitted by this Act, it is prohibited for anyone to produce, import, purchase or acquire, by any means, firearms, spare parts or components and ammunition or primers for these items; to hold these items in their possession or custody; to sell or to dispose of these items in any form; or to carry these items.

4. Please also be informed that article 39 of the aforementioned Act authorizes us to implement measures aimed at the seizure and control of firearms, ammunitions, explosives or any munitions in contravention of its provisions, should such items be detected by our intelligence services and/or during security checks put in place to

monitor transport systems for people and vehicles or other activities carried out within the territory of our land, sea and air borders.

5. Regarding the transfer of military equipment, once such equipment is withdrawn from our inventories, the equipment not used as museum exhibits is destroyed in the presence of the competent authorities while implementing the relevant security and environmental measures.

Lebanon

[Original: English]
[23 April 2008]

Lebanon supports the international agreements concerning disarmament and arms control. However, Lebanon has never received any resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to enhance economic and social development. Despite this situation and the actual security and military circumstances, and despite the numerous operational missions carried out by the Lebanese Army on the borders and within the country, especially to implement Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), Lebanon continues to devote all available means for economic and social development.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[7 April 2008]

The State of Qatar enjoys a high level of stability and security, has good relations with all its neighbours, and is not involved in regional conflicts. The State of Qatar only possesses conventional weapons, and has acceded to all treaties banning weapons of mass destruction. The State of Qatar only possesses such conventional weapons as are necessary for its security given the prevailing conditions in the region. Its arms expenditures are only a small fraction of its national budget, owing to sensible policies and well-developed maintenance programmes that optimize the use of existing weapons. Development and infrastructure of all kinds also receive a great amount of care and attention.

Serbia

[Original: English]
[21 May 2008]

All resources accrued from the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements are credited to the budget of the Republic of Serbia. However, no information is available about the percentage of the resources being devoted to economic and social development.

United Nations A/63/135

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 July 2008
English
Original: English/Spanish

Sixty-third session
Items 91 (q), (u) and (v) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Reducing nuclear danger

Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

Nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/63/50.

08-42616 (E) 050808 070808

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to requests contained in General Assembly resolutions 62/32, 62/39 and 62/42.

2. In paragraph 5 of resolution 62/32, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute towards the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war (see A/56/400, para. 3) and to continue to encourage Member States to consider the convening of an international conference as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see General Assembly resolution 55/2), to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-third session.

3. In paragraph 3 of resolution 62/39, the Assembly requested all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they had taken on the implementation of the resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requested the Secretary-General to apprise the Assembly of that information at its sixty-third session.

4. In paragraph 22 of resolution 62/42, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its sixty-third session, a report on the implementation of the resolution.

II. Observations

5. International efforts to address the threats posed by nuclear weapons have long embodied two basic approaches that are often pursued together: disarmament, aimed at the elimination of nuclear weapons, and arms control, involving various measures to reduce their risks. Both these approaches are reflected in General Assembly resolutions 62/32, 62/39 and 62/42, although each of these resolutions addresses specific aspects.

6. In resolution 62/32 the General Assembly calls for a review of nuclear doctrines and requests the five nuclear-weapon States to take measures towards implementing immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting of nuclear weapons. It also calls upon Member States to take the necessary measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to promote nuclear disarmament, with the objective of eliminating nuclear weapons.

7. In resolution 62/39, the Assembly underlines the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. Further, the Assembly calls upon all States to immediately fulfil that obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination.

8. In resolution 62/42, the Assembly reaffirms that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing and

outlines specific steps needed to achieve nuclear disarmament, including the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones; diminishing the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies; halting qualitative improvements; de-alerting; undertaking step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat; developing legally binding security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States; commencing plurilateral negotiations on deep reductions of nuclear weapons; applying the principle of irreversibility; effectively implementing the 13 steps for nuclear disarmament agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; reducing non-strategic nuclear weapons; negotiating an effectively verifiable fissile material treaty in the Conference on Disarmament as well as commencing negotiations on nuclear disarmament; the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; and the convening of an international conference on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects at an early date to identify and deal with concrete measures of nuclear disarmament.

9. Some nuclear-weapon States have announced reductions in the number of nuclear weapons in their stockpiles. Other unilateral declarations by some nuclear-weapon States include efforts to accelerate the dismantlement of nuclear warheads, the closing of nuclear test sites, reductions in their reliance on deployed weapons and the number of their delivery systems.

10. Agreement was reached between the United States of America and the Russian Federation to develop a legally binding arrangement as a follow-up to the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I).[1] The Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty has also been opened to multilateralization. Several new initiatives by Governments and within civil society have promoted proposals aimed at achieving the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons, including a further call from four reputable American statesmen[2] and an international conference.[3]

11. Yet many concerns and challenges remain. Reductions in the number of nuclear weapons are declaratory, fall short of expectations for deeper cuts and have not been internationally verified. Irreversibility is not guaranteed and precise numbers regarding the size and composition of the world's nuclear weapons arsenals remain undisclosed. While the total number of nuclear weapons has fallen significantly from the heights of the cold war, reportedly 26,000 nuclear weapons still remain in stockpiles. Concerns also remain over nuclear doctrines, particularly the reaffirmation by some nuclear-weapon States of the vital role of a nuclear deterrent in their security policies, and about extending the life of and modernizing existing warheads and weapon systems.

12. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has yet to enter into force. The Secretary-General convened the fifth Conference on Facilitating the Entry Into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, in accordance with article XIV of the Treaty. The Conference was held in Vienna on 17 and 18 September 2007 and successfully concluded with the adoption of the "Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry Into Force of the Comprehensive

[1] United States-Russia Strategic Framework Declaration, issued at Sochi, Russian Federation, 6 April 2008.

[2] *Wall Street Journal*, 4 January 2007 and 15 January 2008.

[3] Achieving the Vision of a World Free of Nuclear Weapons, Oslo, 26 and 27 February 2008.

Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty". Concentrated efforts to achieve universalization over the last year have resulted in the addition of 15 signatory States, bringing the total to 178 States. Six States also ratified the Treaty, bringing the number of ratifications to 144. This includes one additional ratification by an "annex 2" State, so that 35 of the 44 nuclear-capable States whose ratification is needed for the Treaty's entry into force have now ratified it. In his opening statement to the Conference on Disarmament on 23 January 2008, the Secretary-General renewed his call to Member States to move forward in a spirit of compromise, warning that the Conference was in danger of losing its way unless it could rekindle the ambition and sense of common purpose that had produced its last accomplishments and urged the members to build on the progress made in the body since 2006. Significant contributions have been made to promote substantive discussions, including structured debates, but despite renewed efforts and the existence of much common ground among its members, agreement on a programme of work still continues to elude the Conference.

13. The Disarmament Commission held constructive deliberations on recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons at the last session of its three-year cycle in April 2008, but substantive differences remain and the Commission ended without reaching an agreement.

14. Proliferation threats continue. Three States have announced their acquisition of nuclear weapons since May 1998. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty still falls short of universal membership, and while 88 States have adopted the Additional Protocol, 30 States parties have not yet concluded their comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency, as required under the Treaty. Diplomatic efforts are continuing with a view to achieving the full compliance of the Islamic Republic of Iran with Security Council resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007) and 1803 (2008). Efforts in the six-party talks regarding implementation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of the joint statement of 19 September 2005 and the agreement of 13 February 2007 continue. Work on disabling nuclear facilities is progressing and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea submitted a declaration on its nuclear programme activities in June 2008.

15. States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons successfully concluded the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference, held in Geneva from 28 April to 9 May 2008. The Committee held substantive discussions on principles, objectives and ways to promote the full implementation of the Treaty, as well as its universality. Non-nuclear-weapon States recognized the recent announcements by nuclear-weapon States regarding reductions to their nuclear weapon stockpiles, but expressed concern over the slow pace of implementation of their disarmament obligations. The need to effectively address proliferation issues was addressed, as was the need for States parties to fulfil their compliance and safeguards commitments, including the exertion of maximum efforts to bring about diplomatic solutions to compliance concerns and to strengthen confidence among all States parties. The importance of achieving universality of the Treaty was underlined and the contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones to global and regional security was emphasized. States parties reaffirmed the importance of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and emphasized its validity until its goals and objectives are achieved. States parties also reaffirmed

that nothing in the Treaty should be interpreted as affecting their inalienable right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and stressed that the exercise of that right must be consistent with the Treaty's non-proliferation obligations.

16. Several new proposals for the development of a multilateral approach to the nuclear fuel cycle have been put forward as a means of coping with an expected expansion in the use of nuclear energy and addressing the possible associated proliferation risks. Various initiatives have also been acknowledged as contributing towards cooperation in reducing threats from all weapons of mass destruction, including the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. The entry into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in 2007 has strengthened efforts to combat nuclear terrorism while the Security Council, responding to the continued threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their related materials to non-State actors, adopted resolution 1810 (2008) on 25 April 2008. By that resolution, the Council extended by another three years the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and decided that the Committee should intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004).

17. Despite progress in some areas, greater collaborative efforts are required to reduce nuclear danger and to address current disarmament and non-proliferation challenges. The Secretary-General has stressed that the revitalization of the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda remains a priority for the United Nations. The Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, through advocacy and focused direct interaction with States, international and regional organizations and civil society, continue to highlight the need for further progress in reducing the threat of nuclear weapons and the importance of achieving progress in the pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons.

III. Information received from Governments

18. By a note verbale dated 25 February 2008, all Member States were invited to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they had taken with regard to the implementation of resolution 62/39, concerning the follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*. To date, Canada, Cuba, Japan and Qatar have sent replies, the texts of which are reproduced below. Additional replies received from Member States will be issued as addenda to the present report.

Canada

[Original: English]
[10 June 2008]

Canada chose to abstain in the voting on the resolution, as we have traditionally done in past years. Canada firmly believes that there exists an obligation to pursue, in good faith, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects, as expressed in the resolution. Therefore in past years when separate

votes have been held on operative paragraph 1, Canada has voted in favour to demonstrate support for the decision of the International Court of Justice. As a whole, however, the resolution is not sufficiently balanced and singles out one aspect of the advisory opinion. While progress in disarmament requires political will which an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice can help to generate, Canada does not view this First Committee resolution as the appropriate means to implement this advisory opinion. Disarmament is essentially a political matter and progress is most likely achievable in an incremental fashion.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[11 June 2008]

1. On 8 July 1996 the International Court of Justice issued its historic advisory opinion on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, and Cuba notes with concern that humankind still lives under the threat of destruction by an immense arsenal of nuclear weapons.

2. The prospects remain discouraging. Some nuclear-weapon States still refuse to renounce the use of nuclear weapons as part of their military doctrines. Worse yet, the Government of one of them, the United States of America, has stated that it may use them even against non-nuclear-weapon States in response to attacks using non-nuclear weapons.

3. This lack of progress on nuclear disarmament means that the views that the Government of the Republic of Cuba conveyed to the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 61/83, published in the report of the Secretary-General of 27 July 2007 (A/62/165), remain entirely valid.

4. Nevertheless, Cuba wishes to reiterate that the use of nuclear weapons is totally immoral and cannot be justified by any concept or doctrine of security. It is indeed shameful that nuclear weapons still exist and that new and more sophisticated ones, which pose a serious threat to all humanity, continue to be developed.

5. Cuba stresses that the use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic consequences for all known forms of life on Earth. Their use would, moreover, constitute a flagrant violation of international standards on the prevention of genocide. The international community should insist on compliance with the commitment to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a world free of such lethal weapons.

6. Notwithstanding the proclaimed end of the cold war, there are some 32,300 nuclear weapons in the world, over 12,000 of which are ready for immediate use. Nuclear weapons upgrading programmes have not been halted.

7. For non-nuclear-weapon States that are also parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, this situation gives cause for serious concern. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States should be established.

8. The States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty should be firmly committed to implementing all its provisions as well as the 13 practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the Treaty, particularly an unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, it should also be recalled that the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference reiterated that legally binding security assurances by the five nuclear-weapon States to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

9. The nuclear-weapon States have a legal obligation not only to pursue but also to bring to a conclusion negotiations towards comprehensive nuclear disarmament under a strict and effective system of international control.

10. Furthermore, some of the nuclear Powers hypocritically limit the nuclear problem to the issue of non-proliferation, to the detriment of nuclear disarmament, while they themselves are involved in vertical proliferation, that is, updating their nuclear arsenals.

11. Cuba reiterates that nuclear non-proliferation, while important, is not an end in itself but rather a means of achieving the ultimate, supreme goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It also stresses that the total elimination of such weapons is the only sure way to avoiding disaster as a result of their use. The current nuclear weapons, which are thousands of times more powerful than the bombs that the United States of America used against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, would cause destruction and genocide immensely greater than those of 1945.

12. The international community's multilateral mechanisms and instruments for addressing issues related to disarmament and arms control are being prevented from achieving their goals. This is shown by the impossibility of implementing the 13 practical steps agreed at the sixth Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2000 for the elimination of nuclear arsenals and the failure of the 2005 World Summit, where a lack of consensus meant that the Outcome Document could not include a reference to disarmament. Another element for the list is the Review Conference of 2005, which did not reach any agreement and the continued inability of the Conference on Disarmament to open urgent negotiations on a phased disarmament programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

13. In September 2006, Cuba had the honour of presiding over the Fourteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana, at which political leaders reaffirmed that nuclear disarmament is a top priority with respect to disarmament and arms control as well as the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there existed an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

14. Cuba is a State party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to the international treaties on chemical and biological weapons. In the General Assembly, Cuba supports resolutions that advocate the total elimination of nuclear weapons, such as resolution 62/42 entitled "Nuclear disarmament" and resolution 62/51 entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons".

15. As a member of the Conference on Disarmament, Cuba is also in favour of giving priority to commencing negotiations on a phased disarmament programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and has been among the sponsors of concrete initiatives developed by the Group of 21 for that purpose. This position in favour of nuclear disarmament extends to Cuba's participation in the Disarmament Commission, where it has joined the other countries members of the Non-Aligned Movement in proposing a set of recommendations aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament.

16. The recommendations submitted to the United Nations Disarmament Commission also show how the members of the Non-Aligned Movement, including Cuba, are acting in a manner consistent with the aims and purposes of General Assembly resolution 62/39.

Japan

[Original: English]
[27 May 2008]

Commitment to the three non-nuclear principles

1. The Government of Japan remains firmly committed to the "three non-nuclear principles", which describes the policy of not possessing, not producing and not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons into Japan. The successive Cabinets of Japan, including the incumbent Cabinet under Prime Minister Fukuda, have repeatedly articulated that Japan will continue to uphold these principles.

Submission of resolutions on nuclear disarmament to the General Assembly

2. Every year since 1994, Japan has submitted its resolutions on nuclear disarmament to the General Assembly.

3. In 2007, taking into consideration the recent international situation surrounding nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Japan submitted its draft resolution on nuclear disarmament to the General Assembly. The draft resolution was adopted at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 5 December 2007 by an overwhelming majority of 170 votes in favour, which is the largest ever.

4. Although the situation of nuclear disarmament remains challenging, Japan intends to pursue various diplomatic efforts to maintain and reinforce the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the Non-Proliferation Treaty, responding to the political will of a large majority of the international community, which was expressed through the adoption of this resolution.

Efforts for the early entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

5. Japan emphasizes the importance of the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which constitutes one of the major pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime. From this point of view Japan has made various efforts, including the following:

(a) As an effort to promote early ratification by annex II States, in February 2007, Japan invited from Colombia, which had not ratified the Treaty at that time but ratified it in January 2008, a delegation headed by the chairperson of the Colombian Senate Foreign Affairs Committee to visit the International Monitoring System facilities and to exchange views with relevant parties in Japan;

(b) In July, 2007 Japan also invited a governmental delegation from Indonesia to encourage its ratification of the Treaty;

(c) Senior Vice-Minister Hitoshi Kimura represented Japan at the fifth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 2007, urging all States that had not signed and ratified the Treaty to do so as soon as possible;

(d) It is also important that the efforts to establish a nuclear-test-ban verification regime undertaken by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization be sustained, including the International Monitoring System. To date, the seven facilities of the System out of the 10 planned in Japan have already been certified by the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission and a noble gas detection system has been installed in Takasaki.

Activities in preparation for the commencement of fissile material cut-off treaty negotiations

6. Japan emphasizes the importance and urgency of the commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty. As a concrete contribution to this end, Japan presented, in May 2006, a working paper to the Conference on Disarmament, aimed at deepening discussions on the substantive issues of fissile material cut-off treaty and facilitating the early commencement of negotiations.

7. Japan has been making its utmost efforts to break the current stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament, so as to pave the way for the early commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty. Ambassador Sumio Tarui is the coordinator for agenda items 1 and 2, with a general focus on the prohibition of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in the current session of the Conference. Japan has also redoubled its endeavours through the dispatch of high-level representatives to the Conference at various opportunities. On 4 March 2008, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasuhide Nakayama made a statement at the Conference appealing to its members to commence negotiations without delay.

Contribution to the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty review process

8. In order to make tangible contributions to the preparatory process for the 2010 Review Conference, Japan put forward Ambassador Yukiya Amano to serve as Chairman of the first session of the Preparatory Committee. His chairmanship contributed to a successful start of the 2010 review process with the adoption of the agenda.

9. During the second session of the Preparatory Committee in 2008, the delegation of Japan delivered statements and participated in discussions at the general debate and each cluster debate, stressing the importance of strengthening the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime and expressing its views on challenges the regime

faces. Japan submitted to the Conference working papers on its position on cluster 1 (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.II/WP.10), cluster 2 (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.II/WP.7), cluster 3 (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.II/WP.8) and disarmament and non-proliferation education (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.II/WP.9), and reports on nuclear disarmament (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.II/4) and the 1995 resolution on the Middle East (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.II/5).

Cooperation for denuclearization in Russia

10. At the Kananaskis Summit in June 2002, Group of Eight (G8) leaders announced the G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction to address non-proliferation, disarm armament, counter-terrorism and nuclear safety issues. Japan committed itself, for the purpose of this Partnership, to making a contribution of over $200 million, of which $100 million is to be allocated to the G8 disposition programme of Russian surplus weapons-grade plutonium and the rest to projects for dismantling decommissioned Russian nuclear submarines. Since then Japan has extended cooperation to the Russian Federation for completion of dismantlement of two decommissioned nuclear submarines. Japan committed itself to funding the dismantlement of four additional submarines. Furthermore, in 2006, Japan decided to cooperate in the construction of an onshore storage facility for the reactor compartment at the Razboynik Bay. Based on the prospect that all decommissioned nuclear submarines in the Russian Far East will be dismantled by 2010, including through cooperation between Japan and the Russian Federation, Japan will consider additional areas for bilateral cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis.

Efforts to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education

11. In August 2002, the Group of Governmental Experts on disarmament and non-proliferation education submitted the report on disarmament and non-proliferation education to the Secretary-General. A resolution requesting the implementation of this report, was adopted without a vote at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

12. Since 1983, Japan has invited more than 650 participants in the United Nations disarmament fellowship programme to Japan, including the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, providing these young officials, who will be responsible for future disarmament diplomacy, with an opportunity to witness the terrible and long-lasting devastation caused by the atomic bomb. Japan will continue to contribute to this programme.

13. Japan believes there is merit in raising awareness within the international community of the destructive effects of nuclear weapons. In accordance with the ardent wish of the people of Japan that such weapons never be used again, the Government of Japan has supported, on a number of occasions, the efforts of local governments, non-governmental organizations, universities and various institutions to organize exhibitions relating to atomic bombs in foreign countries.

14. To elucidate the current state of disarmament and non-proliferation and to gain broad understanding and support of the issue, the Government of Japan published the fourth edition of "Japan's disarmament and non-proliferation policy" in April 2008.

15. In its efforts to implement the aforementioned recommendations suggested in the 2002 report, Japan has invited prominent academics on disarmament and non-proliferation to visit Japan. The academics have given lectures in Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the necessity of weapons of mass destruction disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament.

16. Japan handed out the Manga comic relating to the experience of the atomic bomb, Barefoot Gen, to participants at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, last year. In August 2007, on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Sapporo, a debate forum on how to realize a peaceful and safe world free of nuclear weapons was held with the participation of local university students. The purpose of this debate forum was to provide an opportunity for the young participants to deepen their understanding of disarmament and non-proliferation issues and to develop critical thinking skills.

17. During the last session of the First Committee of the General Assembly, Japan extended support to the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security for the screening at the United Nations Headquarters of a film entitled "Nagasaki Angelus Bell — 1945".

18. Collaboration with civil society, which is engaged in various activities on disarmament and non-proliferation education, is indispensable for making these efforts more effective. Japan intends to work together with non-governmental organizations and municipalities to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education. During the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference, Japan and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research organized a workshop on disarmament and non-proliferation education with the participation of non-governmental organizations and survivors of the atomic bombing. This workshop was intended to deal with the theme of how future generations can be made to understand the immense destructive power of nuclear weapons and the death and injury they cause.

Qatar

[Original: English]
[17 June 2008]

The State of Qatar is one of the sponsors of this resolution. It has ratified both the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and it opposes the threat or use of nuclear weapons. The State of Qatar strongly supports the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.